

## RURAL SCHOOLS ARE INFECTED

### Marine Hospital Official Says Insanitary Surroundings Hamper Instruction.

CONFERENCE OPENED  
BY BRILLIANT ADDRESS

Distinguished Southern Educators  
Gather for Annual Session.  
Subject of Illiteracy to Be  
Discussed To-Day and To-  
Morrow by Leaders of  
Southern Thought.

**I**N the presence of an audience which filled Broad Street Church to overflowing, the Educational Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, held its opening meeting last night.

The fourth quadriennial meeting of the Board of Education of the Methodist Church, South, was held during the day and was devoted entirely to executive business.

The conference is engaged in the

Work or education in the Southern States, and the general topic of the present session, which will be discussed by some of the foremost educators in the country, will be "Efficiency."

Distinguished leaders in the cause of education from many of the Southern States are already here, and others are expected to-day. The present session promises to be one of the most successful in the history of the organization.

Dr. John C. Kilgo, D. D., president of Trinity College, Durham, N. C., presided at last night's session, and the address of welcome was delivered there.

address of welcome was delivered by Governor Swanson. Preceding the Governor was Rev. G. C. Kelly, D. D., pastor of Broad Street Church, who spoke a few words of welcome on behalf of

the Methodists of the city and State.  
Lecture on Health,  
Dr. Kilgo responded eloquently  
to the Governor's address, and when  
these preliminaries were over, an il-  
lustrated lecture touching the health  
of children in the rural schools of the  
South was delivered by Charles Wad-  
dell Stiles, Ph. D., of the United States  
Public Health and Marine Hospital Ser-  
vice.

Dr. Stiles has been traveling throughout the South for several years, examining into health conditions, and his observations were interesting, and to some degree startling. He claims that 20 per cent. of the money appropriated for public education in this section is wasted because of the insanitary conditions on the farms and of the school houses, and contends that the disease

In his stereopticon views, Dr. Still displayed pictures at many schools, and pointed out to the audience the children that he found infected with the disease.

**DANGEROUS SITUATION.**

In one instance he predicted that 10 per cent. of the children would survive to be twenty-five years old, and said it was false economy to educate them to die before they were grown.

This school was in Alabama, and the speaker declared that similar conditions prevailed elsewhere and that

per cent of the rural school children of the South were infected to a more or less extent.

He said the remedy was the education of the people in favor of proper sanitation; and that though some people would not be taught, the challenge was open to those who would.

**Negro Race a Menace.**

Dr. Stiles brought out another point which was heard with much interest, this being, the "menace of the Negro race."

The opening session of the educational conference was held at the order of Rev. John C. Kilgo, D. D., of Durham, N. C. Rev. Mr. Light, of the Baltimore conference, offered prayer. Rev. G. C. Kelly, D. D., pastor of the First Street Methodist church, presiding, addressed the welcoming the conference.

ference on behalf of his church and the Methodists of the city and State.

Dr. Kilgo then presented Governor Swanson, and in so doing congratulated the people upon having elected a man whose character, able and conservative Governor, whose heart was in the work of religion and public education.

In delivering the address of welcome the Governor said in opening:

"It affords me profound pleasure to extend to you this hearty welcome on behalf of the State of Virginia. We extend to you our hearty felicitations not only for yourselves and the great church you represent, but also for the great cause which has occasioned this

assembly, we of Virginia love and admire the great Methodist Church and appreciate fully the great work it has done to advance Christianity. Its marvelous achievement in teaching the great masses of the people and bringing to them religion, refinement and education.

"We bow in reverence before its band of holy workers and preachers who, almost without recompense and at great sacrifice and suffering, command, like soldiers, have gone to barren places, in poor and desolate homes, in remote wildernesses, to call

After speaking at length of the work the church is doing for the cause of education, the Governor concluded as follows:

**Must Stand Together.**

"Men of the South, the clock of our progress is striking the hour of unity and responsibility. United by ties of blood, tradition, common suffering and common interest, bound together by perplexing problems, we are called to the stretch of country extending from the Potomac to the Rio Grande will ever constitute one people and for that reason we are called to stand united in a common destiny. We would not if we could and we could not if we would separate. The memories of our common past and our common future compel us to accord and unite."

"Let us then, feeling fully our great responsibility to our country and to this nation, the love of which fills our hearts, meet Southern prob-